U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY www.cma.army.mil

CMA NEWS | December 2007

CMA PROGRESS AT A GLANCE

- **Anniston Chemical Activity, Ala.,** Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility work force has safely processed 65,069 VX-filled 155-mm projectiles and 39,284 gallons of liquid VX since disposal operations resumed in June.
- **Deseret Chemical Depot, Utah,** Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility has safely disposed of 2,271 mustard agent-filled ton containers and 6,543 mustard agent-filled 155-mm projectiles as of Dec. 17, 2007. Mustard operations began in August 2006.
- **Newport Chemical Depot, Ind.,** Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility has safely neutralized 71 percent (1,803,646 pounds) of the Newport agent stockpile. The United States has received credit for destroying 1,387,825 pounds of the Newport stockpile under the Chemical Weapons Convention.
- **Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark.,** Pine Bluff Chemical Activity shipped a small quantity of mustard agent samples to an off-post laboratory for analysis. Samples will be shipped throughout the next several months to verify the physical and chemical characteristics of the agent that was stored in ton containers at Pine Bluff Arsenal.

  Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility workers have safely achieved 9.9 million consecutive man hours without a lost day away from work occurrence.
- **Umatilla Chemical Depot, Ore.,** Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility achieved two milestones during November 2007. On Nov. 23, the facility destroyed its first VX nerve agent spray tank. On Nov. 26, the facility eliminated the Umatilla Chemical Depot's only ton container filled with VX agent. This single container was filled with VX agent in the mid-1980s during a "Drill and Transfer System" operation to collect agent from leaking munitions. M55 VX rocket processing is also continuing at the facility.
- **Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project's** Explosive Destruction System at Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark., continues its mission destroying 4.2 inch mortars and German Traktor Rocket (GTR) warheads and has successfully started destroying GTR warheads with attached motors. The GTR Separation System project is preparing to resume operations the first week in January. The pre-operational survey findings have been resolved and approved. The Ton Container Decontamination Facility is thermally decontaminating ton containers at a rate of six per day while processing 10 ton containers per day. Personnel at Pine Bluff Arsenal have shipped 80 thermally decontaminated ton containers to a treatment, storage, and disposal facility to recycle the metal.

BLUE GRASS CHEMICAL ACTIVITY GETS GREEN LIGHT TO BUILD NEW LABORATORY

Lt. Col. Tom Closs, Blue Grass Chemical Activity Commander; Mr. Thom Bilyeu, Director of Chemical Operations; Ms. Bonnie McCoy, Supervisory Chemist; and Mr. Chris Chasteen, Physical Science Technician, work together in this groundbreaking ceremony to mark the construction of the new laboratory for Blue Grass Chemical Activity.

Blue Grass Chemical Activity (BGCA) broke ground on Dec. 17 for an analytical laboratory that is scheduled to cost more than one million dollars. The 2,500 square foot facility will replace a 620 square foot laboratory constructed almost 25 years ago. The new lab is being built due to increasing analytical requirements and to support the chemical demilitarization plant which is currently under construction.

"We are very excited about this new facility," stated Lt. Col. Tom Closs, BGCA Commander. "We intend to build a very robust laboratory that will take care of all our monitoring and analytical needs until the stockpile is completely destroyed."

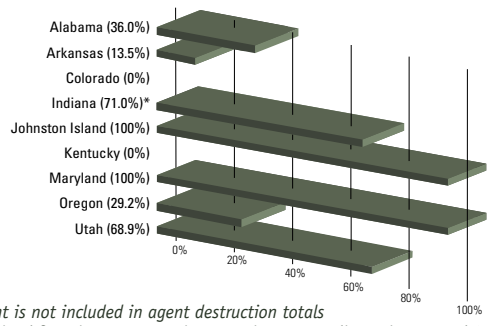
The building is slated to cost $600,000 for design and construction and another $426,000 for state-of-the-art laboratory equipment. The equipment will double the capabilities of the current lab, with four new laboratory fume hoods and gas chromatographs, dedicated agent filtration units and a negative air pressure system.

Rhonda Shay, BGCA engineer, added, "The new lab will include an administrative and storage area, along with an equipment room. We're going to create a better work environment for our laboratory technicians with additional workstations to give us the capability to handle all foreseeable laboratory requirements."

The new laboratory will be located next to the personal protective equipment facility that was constructed in 2005. The laboratory is expected to be completed by summer 2008.

CMA - CREATING A SAFER TOMORROW

50.1 PERCENT OF U.S. CHEMICAL AGENT STOCKPILE DESTROYED
(as of Dec. 9 measured by original agent tonnage since entry into force – April 29, 1997)



** Newport's neutralized agent is not included in agent destruction totals until the hydrolysate is drained from its transportation containers at Veolia Environmental Services.*

U.S. ARMY BIDS FAREWELL TO MODERN CHEMICAL WEAPONS CAPABILITY

NSCMP Completes Final Step in Destroying Binary Chemical Weapons

The U.S. Army Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project (NSCMP) eliminated all binary weapons after completing the final step in destroying the binary precursor chemicals known as DF, methylphosphonic difluoride, and QL, diisopropyl aminoethylmethyl phosphonite.

NSCMP, part of the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, was tasked with destroying existing stores of DF and QL, chemicals designed for use in binary chemical munitions. NSCMP neutralized the chemicals last year at Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark., and shipped the resulting wastewater to Texas Molecular, a permitted treatment, storage and disposal facility in Deer Park, Texas, for final treatment and disposal. The treatment, which used wet air oxidation (WAO) was completed Nov. 27, 2007.

The U.S. Army developed binary chemical munitions in the 1980s to provide the United States with a modern chemical weapons capability. Binary chemical munitions were designed to combine two non-lethal chemicals to create nerve agent inside munitions while in flight to the target. Binary chemical weapons served an additional purpose as the catalyst leading to international agreements on the dissolution of chemical warfare practices.

The Chemical Weapons Convention, an international treaty signed by the United States requiring the destruction of chemical weapons, mandated destruction of the binary chemicals DF and QL.

"The U.S. binary chemical materiel is history," said Laurence Gottschalk, NSCMP Manager, "Congratulations to all of the people involved in completing this first-of-a-kind process in a safe, environmentally sound and timely fashion. I am proud of each member of this team. Each of them contributed to the success of the mission."

NSCMP chose WAO as the best process to treat the wastewater after extensive technology evaluation and testing. WAO was developed in the 1930s as a process to produce artificial vanilla and it was patented as a waste treatment process in 1950. Since then, it has been used to treat wastewater from refineries, acidic material from industrial plants and sewage sludge.

"This success is especially fulfilling for the Non-Stockpile government-contractor team and a great accomplishment for the U.S. Army," said Edward Doyle, NSCMP's waste project manager. "We used an 'out-of-the-box' approach to partner with industry on this project and the resulting safe operation of the WAO unit while exceeding projected efficacy, availability and schedule is a great way to end this chapter of our cold war legacy."

CMA'S NEW COMMAND SURGEON: DR. MICK PARKER

There's a new face in the medical arena at the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) headquarters. Dr. Michael (Mick) Parker is the new Command Surgeon, overseeing the medical centers at the five chemical demilitarization sites. He is a consultant to the medical staffs and responsible for quality control of the medical programs as well as policy development for CMA's overall medical program.

It's a tall order to fill, but Dr. Parker has garnered the necessary experience from his many assignments throughout ten and a half years of active military duty. Prior to his work at CMA, he was Chief of Occupational Health at the Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii.

"I enjoyed my time in Hawaii, but I really missed the change of seasons. I'm from Louisiana and we definitely experience the seasons, even though it is more subtle than here in Maryland," Dr. Parker said.

Dr. Parker prepared for a career in medicine at Tulane University in New Orleans, where he earned his medical degree while he was in the Army Reserves. He continued his education, earning a master's degree in public health from Harvard University, continuing with specialty training and Board Certification in both preventive and occupational medicine.

"I chose a life in the Army because I get to do things that folks I went to school with don't get to do. I have been to many places – Korea, the Philippines and Uganda to name a few. At each location I met incredible people and had amazing medical experiences. Jumping out of perfectly good airplanes (with a parachute) was an added bonus," Dr. Parker added.

His title, "Command Surgeon," does not mean that he has extensive experience in surgery, but is the title the Army uses for the chief medical officer for a command. He mostly deals with occupational medicine and travels to a different CMA medical site at least once a month.

"Each site has a full medical staff consisting of at least one physician, several physician assistants, paramedics and nurses. They must have someone at the medical center 24/7, so there is a lot of planning. We are always working to make things better," Dr. Parker said. "Currently we are looking at the heat exposure program. It gets really hot at some of the sites in the summer and when a worker wears the personal protective equipment suits for any length of time, we are concerned with how they deal with the heat."

Dr. Parker says that typical Army assignments last from two to four years and he does not know exactly how long he will be with CMA. He is interested in working with a Brigade Combat Team or Division for his next assignment.

"I've done two tours in Iraq and soldiers really need to be ready for duty in Theater [combat zones]. I welcome the opportunity to again work with a unit throughout the entire deployment cycle, during ramp-up, deployment into Theater and recovery from OIF [Operation Iraqi Freedom] or OEF [Operation Enduring Freedom] deployment. But, I don't know what the future holds just yet," Dr. Parker concluded.

CMA News is produced by the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency Public Affairs Office.
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